

which most people would consider mandatory spending, along with all the other entitlements, we get 82 percent. Only 18 cents on the dollar really is discretionary.

Mr. Speaker, entitlements are important programs, but they will benefit no one if they go bankrupt. And we are headed for a fiscal tsunami in this country. So as we begin the budget process, let us keep in mind that runaway discretionary spending is wrong, and we would do well to rein it in.

But unsustainable entitlement spending is a greater problem that we should address as well for the sake of our children and grandchildren. Whether we like it or not, this is a very real problem. It is not going to go away.

Doing nothing is simply not an option. In fact, doing nothing is the worst thing we can do.

IT IS TIME FOR A POLICY THAT REALLY SECURES AMERICA

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, over the last couple of days we have seen the focus of the American conscience look toward whether America is actually secure.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is time now for the administration to craft a policy that answers the enormity of the concerns that Americans have expressed in town hall meetings across America. Frankly, I think when the headlines read 1,300 Iraqi dead, our soldiers standing by, not knowing whether to engage or not in the civil war that is pending, it is actually now time for the President to acknowledge that our troops have done their job, they have won the victory, and they need to come home.

And then we speak of securing America and having conflicts cause the tension that they are causing and then we still want to say that it is all right to sell our ports to foreign entities; and, of course, I think America needs to know that in the 2007 budget there is no funding for securing the Nation's ports around America.

It is time now for the administration to craft a security posture and policy that really secures America. The time is now.

STATE TAX COMPETITIVENESS

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, this week the Tax Foundation, an educational foundation for taxpayers since 1937, released its much anticipated third edition of their State business tax climate index. It ranks the 50 States on how business friendly their tax systems are.

The study finds the most business-friendly tax systems in Wyoming,

South Dakota, Alaska, Florida, Nevada, New Hampshire and Texas. The least business-friendly tax codes were found in New York, New Jersey, Rhode Island, Vermont and Maine.

Low-tax States are where the job growth is. Governors and businesses and residents want jobs to flow to their States. Low taxes will do that. So low taxes in America will also keep jobs here.

So, Mr. Speaker, there is a cautionary tale from this report, reminding us that we are truly competing in a global economy, and we cannot ignore the fact that low taxes indeed create new jobs.

RECOGNIZING AMBER CASHWELL'S SERVICE TO SOUTH CAROLINA

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, as I always say, congressional schedulers have some of the hardest jobs in Washington.

While serving as a scheduler, Amber Cashwell has seamlessly planned a calendar, helped manage the office, and assisted the citizens of the Second District of South Carolina. Throughout her service she has handled her responsibilities with patience, professionalism, and good humor. Her colleagues and I truly appreciate her hard work and dedication.

A native of Spartanburg, South Carolina, Amber began her career in Washington as a staff assistant for Congressman BOB INGLIS. In May, 2004, she graduated from Converse College with an impressive double major in French and history.

Tomorrow, Amber will depart the halls of Congress to work at the Moore Van Allen law firm in Charlotte, North Carolina. I am proud of her success and pleased to congratulate Amber on this wonderful opportunity.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

MALPRACTICE INSURANCE

(Mr. PRICE of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, when I opened up my local paper the other day, I was troubled by a letter to the editor. This gentleman was lamenting the fact that he and his wife were losing a long-time doctor because the physician could not afford to remain in business. What is even more troubling is that none of this is a surprise.

Every day more and more doctors across the country are watching their malpractice rates skyrocket. These premiums are going up as the insurance companies are being forced to pay higher and higher awards for malpractice lawsuits.

Doctors need to be held accountable, yes. However, there is also a need to

recognize the institutional abuse that is far too often perpetrated in our courts by personal injury lawyers and the frivolous lawsuits they introduce. These lawsuits do not just affect doctors. They are affecting patients all across the country who either lose access to their doctor altogether or are cared for by a physician who has been intimidated into practicing defensive medicine.

While everyone is talking about rising health care costs, let us not forget to recognize there are a number of different ways to lower those costs, and starting with lawsuit abuse reform would be a genuine first step.

KATRINA EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE ACT OF 2006

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the order of the House of March 1, 2006, I call up the Senate bill (S. 1777) to provide relief for the victims of Hurricane Katrina, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOOZMAN). Pursuant to the order of the House of Wednesday, March 1, 2006, the Senate bill is considered read, and the amendment placed at the desk is adopted.

The text of the Senate bill, as amended, is as follows:

S. 1777

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Katrina Emergency Assistance Act of 2006".

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in the case of an individual eligible to receive unemployment assistance under section 410(a) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5177(a)) as a result of a disaster declaration made for Hurricane Katrina or Hurricane Rita on or after August 29, 2005, the President shall make such assistance available for 39 weeks after the date of the disaster declaration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER) and the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

□ 1030

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on S. 1777.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOOZMAN). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.